

231558Z Nov 05

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	PDI-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	UTED-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	M-00	NEA-00
	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	MCC-00
	PER-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00	BHG-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2638
INFO AMEMBASSY ABUJA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 001684

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#)
SUBJECT: CHADIAN PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES ELECTION PLANS

REF: NDJAMENA 1649

¶11. (SBU) Summary: On November 18, Chadian Prime Minister Pascal Yoadminadji outlined plans for the 2006 elections in a meeting originally billed as the installation of the national independent electoral commission. Yoadminadji may have scuttled the installation after political opposition parties declined the invitation to attend. Instead, he announced that the presidential elections would occur in the second trimester of 2006 and legislative and communal elections would be delayed. Even the ruling party and its allies were confused over the meeting's purpose, but took the opportunity, as did the Prime Minister, to point to the opposition's boycott of the process as obstructionist. Finally, the Prime Minister acknowledged the electoral deficiencies identified in the recently released U.N. Development Program report, and asked international donors to provide technical assistance and financing to overcome electoral shortcomings. End Summary.

¶12. (U) On November 18, Prime Minister Pascal Yoadminadji called the political parties and international donors to the installation of the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI). The meeting was attended by the ruling party and its allies and international donors including France, the U.S., Germany, and the European Commission, which also represented the U.N. Development Program (UNDP). Opposition parties did not attend.

¶13. (U) Yoadminadji, however, did not install the CENI. Instead, he announced that the Chadian Government was proceeding with presidential elections in the second trimester of 2006 and would soon establish the CENI. According to Yoadminadji, the Government places the highest importance on consultations and transparency. Moreover, the Government wants the upcoming elections to be respected. He outlined the Minister of Territorial Administration's attempts to undertake consultations with all the political parties in order to constitute the CENI. The opposition parties are continuing the boycott of the process that began with the referendum. Yoadminadji reiterated President Deby's commitment to meet with the opposition. However, he stated that due to the extreme pressures on the Chadian Treasury, Deby is not in a financial position to meet the opposition's key precondition for participation: revision of the electoral list.

¶14. (U) The Prime Minister acknowledged the weaknesses identified in the U.N. Development Program's recent assessment of the electoral process. (Reftel) He called on donors to provide the financing to correct these deficiencies arguing that transparent, respected elections require technical assistance, training for electoral agents, and expertise to revise the electoral code.

¶15. (U) Yoadminadji emphasized that the opposition refused to attend the meeting. He noted that he received a letter from the Coalition of Parties for the Defense of the Constitution (CDPC) declining the invitation, which outlined

its concerns regarding the process. He stated that the opposition has "deserted the dialogue" and that Government cannot advance without it. He explained that in the absence of good elections, the country could be plunged into chaos. He again called on Chad's international partners to finance the elections.

¶6. (SBU) Concluding his formal remarks, Yoadminadji announced that the Government had deposited revisions to the electoral code at the National Assembly. These revisions include extending the terms of currently serving deputies by one year. This is necessary to align the deputies' districts with the prefectures and other changes implemented under the decentralization plan. He stated that the Government is keeping all options open to ensure a minimum of consensus on the elections and again invited the international community to "accompany us".

¶7. (SBU) Though not invited to speak, French Ambassador Jean-Pierre Bercot took the floor. He noted that the opposition's boycott of the electoral registration for the referendum had been a mistake that has deprived many Chadians of their right to vote in the upcoming elections. Nonetheless, he urged the Government not to move ahead with the CENI without the CDPC. He recommended that both parties meet face-to-face instead of exchanging letters. He also stated that it is important for the Government to make every

effort to correct as many of the issues with the electoral code and process as possible.

¶8. (SBU) Yoadimnadji used Bercot's intervention to say that the Government cannot accept the CDPC's conditions, which include revision of the electoral list. He said the Government is open to discussion at all times without limits, except financial. Ruling party General Secretary Mahamat Hisseine jumped in and asked who invited the international community to the meeting. The Prime Minister stated that the international community was invited at the request of the opposition. Later, P/E officer learned that the opposition did not ask for the international community's presence. One of the Prime Minister's advisors said that the Government wanted the donors to be involved in the process.

¶9. (SBU) For its part, the CDPC is calling for transparent electoral census; the delineation of new electoral districts; a redefinition of the CENI's composition, rules, and functions; electoral code revisions; and the establishment of mechanisms to assure transparent elections and sanctions for those who violate them. In a press communiqu, the CDPC noted their availability for dialogue and said that the President had requested their proposal for the upcoming elections during a face-to-face meeting on September 20. The CDPC responded in writing on September 22. Ngarba said the President had yet to respond. CDPC members had set a meeting up with the Prime Minister earlier in the day, but Yoadimnadji cancelled it.

¶10. (U) In September, the CDPC called for the creation of a mixed committee to discuss key issues pertaining to the elections in its meeting with President Deby. CDPC questioned the Government's ability to hold transparent elections given "serious uncertainties" brought on by military desertions from elements of Deby's own family and the Government's attempt to revise the oil revenue management law. The CDPC believes that the Government is going to secretly install the CENI and is now in the process of looking for replacements for the six opposition party seats, according to CDPC spokesman Salibu Ngarba.

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COMMENT
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¶11. (SBU) The confusion over the CENI installation reflects general uncertainty over the upcoming electoral process. As with the referendum, the Government is again late in its preparations for next elections. Even if Deby had the political will to overcome the opposition's objections, a ruling party insider tells us that a free, fair, and transparent electoral process would require a significant delay and the extension of the presidential mandate past August 8, 2006. Last week's postponement of the ruling party Congress, at which Deby would presumably be named a candidate for president, is another indication that the regime is still undecided on some of its next steps. No firm date for the Congress has been set.

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